



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

James Simons Elementary  
Charleston

Grades: PK-6

Enrollment: 362

Principal: Lynn Owings

Superintendent: Dr. Nancy J. McGinley

Board Chair: Mr. Hillery Douglas

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov) as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD/SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2008	At-Risk	At-Risk	TBD	Not Met	NI
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2006	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	Met	N/A

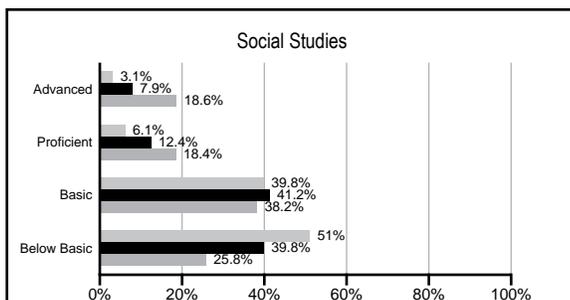
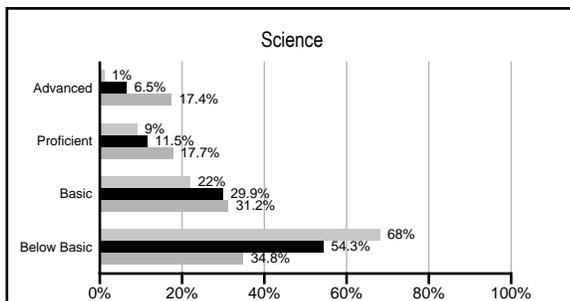
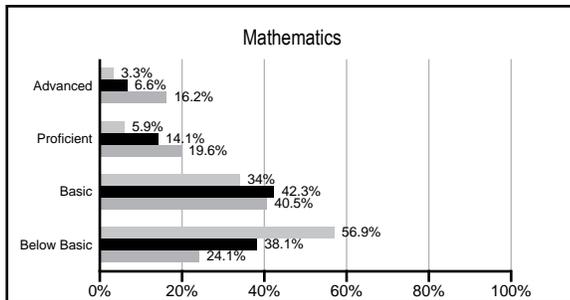
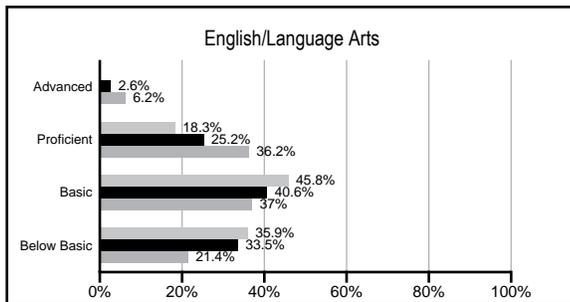
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	3	10	55	62

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 02/17/2009. Schools with Students like Ours are Elementary Schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

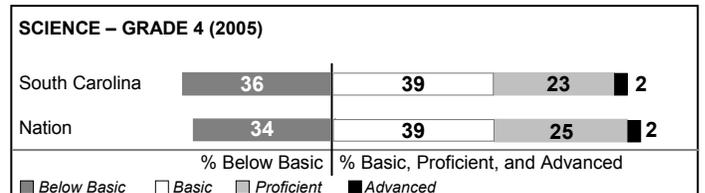
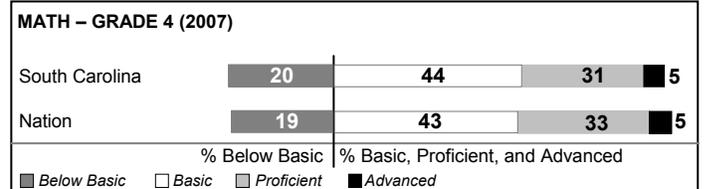
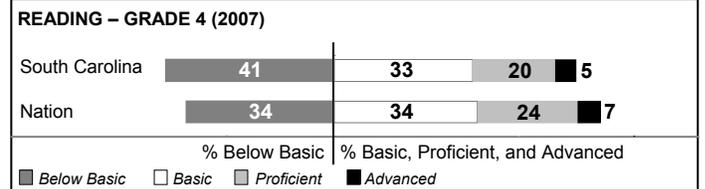
## PACT PERFORMANCE

Our School    Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours    Elementary schools statewide



## NAEP PERFORMANCE\*

\* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



## SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Goal: TBD

### Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined  
NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

# James Simons Elementary [Charleston]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
<b>Students (n=362)</b>				
Retention rate	4.6%	Up from 3.5%	3.1%	2.3%
Attendance rate	96.9%	Up from 96.2%	96.0%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	5.7%	Down from 6.4%	2.9%	10.4%
With disabilities other than speech	2.3%	Up from 1.0%	7.8%	7.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.6%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n=27)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	44.4%	Down from 53.6%	54.5%	56.7%
Continuing contract teachers	37.0%	Down from 71.4%	69.0%	77.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	5.9%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	79.2%	Down from 79.4%	82.6%	86.4%
Teacher attendance rate	98.0%	Up from 97.2%	95.0%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$42,329	Up 1.8%	\$43,876	\$45,345
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	4.6%	Down from 15.1%	1.0%	0.0%
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	3.0	Up from 2.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	13.1 to 1	Down from 16.5 to 1	16.6 to 1	18.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	94.0%	Up from 92.3%	89.4%	89.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Up from Poor	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$8,094	Up 14.5%	\$8,172	\$7,052
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	70.5%	Up from 65.0%	68.5%	69.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	59.2%	Down from 60.7%	61.0%	64.2%
% of AYP objectives met	53.8%		69.2%	85.7%

\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	17	37	16
Percent satisfied with learning environment	64.7%	69.4%	76.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	70.6%	61.1%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	70.6%	73.0%	93.3%

\*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

James Simons Elementary, a Governor's Reading Honor Roll and Hall of Fame Community Readers' school, is located in Charleston, South Carolina. A Title One school with 345 students, James Simons Elementary School serves students from Child Development through Sixth Grade. James Simons Elementary School's motto is "Striving for the S.T.A.R.S ... A Journey to New Horizons."

James Simons Elementary's highly-qualified teachers and staff are committed to improving student achievement for all. Our teachers provide rigor and relevance using South Carolina curriculum standards. Weekly, our teachers, administrators, and support personnel meet to discuss student data and progress. Data such as PACT, MAP, DRA, Dibels, Star Reading, running records, and common assessments are monitored and discussed to address the needs of all students. Students are provided with multiple learning opportunities through differentiated instruction, such as RIT Band and small group instruction. We have resource and speech programs for students with special needs, as well as programs for gifted and talented. Our school has two computer labs that are used before, during, and after school to address student academic needs. Both labs are licensed for reading and math enhancement through a computer-assisted program called SuccessMaker. Our school has also partnered with University Instructors, a supplemental service that assists students with small, group tutorials during the school day.

Our students are provided a school-wide discipline plan called JAGS (Just Accountable Good Safety), which provides a framework for expected behaviors. As a component of (SIP) Simons Incentive Program, students earn academic bucks as a result of good behaviors. Academic bucks are used to buy positive incentives from the school store. Weekly, each homeroom teacher selects a "Student of the Week." A notable adult speaks to the student body quarterly about academic excellence. School Clubs are offered for students on a monthly basis. After-school activities for students include PACT Pals, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Reading AKAdemy, Sigma Gamma Rho Mentoring Program (girls), The Avery Institute Scholar's Program, and Kaleidoscope.

James Simons Elementary School seeks to build partnerships with parents and community members to develop the whole child. Recently, a group of stakeholders called the Neighborhood Planning team initiated an effort to research the school, considering partial magnet status. The school-choice model being considered is single gender with an emphasis on math, science, and technology. Through the Principal Outreach Program, parents, grandparents, and guardians can participate in various initiatives, such as Dessert with the Principal, Doughnuts for Dads, Muffins for Moms, Grits for Grandparents, Homeroom Mothers, Minister's Breakfast, and monthly Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings. The school also gives parents opportunities to receive important information and trainings at monthly parent workshop sessions.

The James Simons Elementary welcomes all in producing excellence in the classroom.

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